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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1951

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Morpeth.

MR. MAYOR, AT DERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1951.

The vital statistics are better in some respects and worse in others than in 1950. On the credit side there is a slight rise in the birth rate and a marked fall in the infantile mortality rate, which, at 23.81 per 1,000 live births, is considerably lower than the rate for England and Wales. The maternal mortality rate is nil. On the other hand, the death rate increased from 9.8 to 13.41 per 1,000 of the population. The main causes of this increase were a rise of 9 in deaths from malignant neoplasms, a rise of 20 in deaths from diseases of the heart and vascular system, and a rise of 11 in deaths from Influenza, Pneumonia and Bronchitis, most of which occurred during the Influenza epidemic in the early part of the year. The number of new cases of Tuberculosis and the number of deaths from that cause also showed an increase.

Notifiable infectious disease on the whole had a low incidence, and for the third successive year no case of Diphtheria occurred among the general population.

The housing problem is still with us, and likely to remain.

The greatest need of the community is for a sufficient number of houses to permit every family to have its own home, and for that home to be entirely fit for human habitation. The completion of 45 Council houses during the year is a slight improvement on the figure for 1950.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the members of the Council for the consideration they have shown me, and the staffs of the Health and other departments of the Council for the assistance which I have received from them.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGregor,

Medical Officer of Health,

Borough of Morpeth.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i> ...	...	...	...	...	CATHERINE B. McGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
<i>Assistant Medical Officer</i> ...	...	...	...	...	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i> ...	...	...	...	...	FRANK K. PERKINS, M.I.M & C.E., M.R.S.I.
<i>Assistant Sanitary Inspector (Meat)</i> ...	...	...	...	...	J. G. SIMPSON, M.S.I.A.
<i>Offices of the M.O.H.</i> ...	...	...	...	...	146 Station Road, Ashington.
<i>Telephone</i> ...	...	...	...	...	Ashington 2287.
<i>Offices of the Sanitary Inspector</i> ...	...	...	...	...	36 Bridge Street, Morpeth.
<i>Telephone</i> ...	...	...	...	...	Morpeth 36.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Borough of Morpeth is pleasantly situated on the river Wansbeck, about 14 miles north of Newcastle and on the Great North Road. It has an area of 2,213 acres and is completely encircled by the Morpeth Rural District.

The older parts of the town lie on relatively level ground near the river and surrounded on all sides by rising ground, except where the river enters and leaves the town. The new housing estates and most of the modern development lie on the higher ground and to the south and south-east of the old town and river.

Morpeth is an important shopping and market centre for a wide surrounding agricultural area, and a relatively large proportion of the population is employed in the distributive trades and in public administration. Coal-mining and agriculture also provide employment for many of the residents, although these workers are for the most part actually employed outside the Borough. A comparatively small but old-established iron and brass foundry employs a number of workers in engineering, and there are several motor engineering firms and two aerated waters factories.

The town attracts many visitors during the summer months and is justly proud of its public park, which provides a beautiful display of flowers at the main entrance from the Great North Road, and ample open space for games and picnics on the banks beside the river.

Area in Acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,213
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population mid-1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,770
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£63,243- 0.0
Sum Produced by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£250-18-0
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,833

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	197	...	106
Illegitimate	...	13	...	8
		210	114	96
		—	—	—

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	19.498
Standard Birth Rate (comparability factor 0.98)	...	...	...	19.11

Still Births :		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	7	...	5
Illegitimate	...	0	...	0
		—	—	—
		7	5	2
		—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	...	...	...	...	...	32.26
Rate per 1,000 total population	...	...	...	...	...	0.65

Deaths :—		Total	Male	Female
		143	...	69
		—	—	—
		143	69	74
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...	...
Standard Death Rate (comparability factor 1.01)	...	...	...	...

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

No. 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:

The Registrar-General supplies the following:—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1951

Death of Infants under 1 year:—

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table sets out the chief causes of death in the area:—

Cause	Number								Percentage of total deaths
Diseases of Heart and Circulation	52	...	...	36.36
Malignant Neoplasms	24	...	...	16.78
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	21	...	...	14.68
Bronchitis	9	...	...	6.29

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Disease	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	Total under 1 mth.	Total under 1 year				Total under 1 year
						1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	
Prematurity	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Haemolytic Disease of Newborn	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	4	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	5

The following table shows the comparative Mortality Rate during the past ten years:—

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	10	9	7	8	8	3	6	9	10	7	5
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births	72.5	62.9	52.63	46.24	58.93	16.39	20.7	43.6	54.35	34.48	23.81

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the Laboratory at the Newcastle General Hospital.

The extent to which these facilities have been utilised is shown below:—

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
R.H.B. Chest Physician	Sputa for B. Tuberculosis	11	58
General Practitioners	do.	2	40
General Practitioners	Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	—	15
General Practitioners	Swabs for Haem. Strep.	12	8
M.O.H.	do.	—	8
General Practitioners	Swabs for Staph. Aureus	—	1
General Practitioners	Coliform Organisms	1	—
R.H.B. Physicians	C.S.F. for Meningococci	2	—
General Practitioners	Blood for Enteric Fever	—	1

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

These are provided by the Northumberland County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Four ambulances and five drivers are stationed in Morpeth and serve the Borough, Pegswood, and the western part of the Morpeth Rural District, and part of Castle Ward Rural District.

NURSING IN THE HOME

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Northumberland County Council is the authority solely and directly responsible for Home Nursing Services.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS

The Northumberland County Council is the Welfare Authority for the Borough, and sessions are held as follows:—

Infant Welfare Centre, Parochial Hall, every Monday, 9.30 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic, every Thursday, whole day and half day alternately.

Orthopaedic Clinic, every Friday morning at 9.30 a.m.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The Corporation possesses its own water undertaking and the supply is augmented by water purchased from the Tynemouth Corporation. The water from both sources is chlorinated, that supplied from Tynemouth Corporation being treated by the vendors before it enters the district.

The water supply to the Borough has been adequate for all demands made upon it. The pressure is sufficient and the quality satisfactory.

The average daily quantity of water consumed from the Borough undertaking was approximately 150,798 gallons.

The average daily quantity from Tynemouth Corporation was approximately 147,407 gallons.

The total average daily consumption was 298,205 gallons.

The sand filters at Tranwell have been generally overhauled and the filtering media renewed. The interior walls and floor of the underground reservoir were scraped and washed, and a new copper floating draw-off arm fitted. The Petter pumping engine was provided with a new cylinder and piston to replace the existing one, which had worn out and reduced the efficiency of the plant. Ditches around the collecting-grounds were cleared, grass verges cut, and protecting fences repaired.

All water mains were cleansed by thorough flushing.

WATER SAMPLES

Nineteen samples of water from the town supply were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and the results are set out in the following table:—

BACTERIOLOGICAL

Sample No.	Date	Place of Collection								Probable No. of Coli-Aerogenes Organisms per 100 ml. of water
1.	15 : 3:51.	Churchburn Drive, Loansdean	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
2.	15 : 3:51.	Goosehill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
3.	15 : 3:51.	Mill Square	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
4.	15 : 3:51.	McGill's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
5.	28 : 3:51.	McGill's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
6.	28 : 3:51.	Mill Square	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
7.	28 : 3:51.	Goosehill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
8.	28 : 3:51.	Churchburn Drive, Loansdean	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
9.	19 : 6:51.	Harbottle's Yard, Oldgate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
10.	19 : 6:51.	Main's Terrace, Newgate Street	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
11.	19 : 6:51.	15 Olympia Gardens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
12.	19 : 6:51.	4 Queen Street, Middle Greens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
13.	13 : 9:51.	McGill's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
14.	13 : 9:51.	The Chimes, Fulbeck	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
15.	13 : 9:51.	Fulbeck	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
16.	10 :12:51.	The Chimes, Fulbeck	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
17.	10 :12:51.	Fulbeck	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
18.	10 :12:51.	Pottery Bank	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
19.	10 :12:51.	21 Howard Terrace	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

The presence of Coli-Aerogenes in samples 1—4 was due to a temporary suspension of Chlorination following a defect in the Chlorinating mechanism. This was promptly dealt with, as subsequent samples 5—8 indicate.

CHEMICAL

One sample of water from the Borough supply was taken for Chemical Analysis, and the following is a copy of the report from the Public Analyst — J. H. Pattinson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne:—

CHEMICAL RESULTS

	Parts per 100,000									
Total solids dried at 180°C	19.0
Chlorines as Chlorides	1.95
Free Ammonia	0.007
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.009
Nitrogen as nitrates	0.05
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours at 80°F)	0.495
Total hardness	13.6
Permanent hardness	3.1
Temporary hardness	10.5
Lead and Copper	None
Iron	0.02
Appearance and Colour (Hazen degrees 60)	Fairly deep yellow and almost clear
Smell and Taste	Satisfactory
Microscopical examination of deposit	Satisfactory

REPORT

This sample of water is of satisfactory organic purity and microscopical examination shows it to be adequately filtered. The water is free from odour and taste and its deep colour is characteristic of the Tyne-mouth Supply.

I am of the opinion that the water is suitable for drinking and domestic use.

date 8th January, 1952.

Signed: *W. Gordon Carey.*

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following table indicates the number and nature of the Inspections carried out during the year:—

		No. of Inspections during year	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws.	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by informal action	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory Notice	Legal Proceedings.
HOUSING								
Structural Defects (Summary of Sheet 11)	575	27	16	27				
Defective Food Store	2	2	2	2				
Dampness	10	10	10	10				
Overcrowding	15	—	—	—				
WATER SUPPLY								
Insufficient	—	—	—	—				
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—	—				
DRAINAGE								
Insufficient	—	—	—	—				
Defective	4	4	1	1	1	4	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES								
Insufficient	—	—	—	—				
Defective	1	1	1	1	work in hand	—	—	—
Food Premises	183	4	4	4	4	—	—	—
Shop Acts	13	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Dairies	23	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses	451	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	46	10	6	10	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	8	3	—	3	—	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	20	20	2	20	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	4	4	—	4	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1358	88	42	87				

The following table gives a summary of the work effected:—

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENiences			
Privies & Privy Ashpits abolished	—	—	—
" " " " " repaired	—	—	—
Pail Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water Closets provided	2	—	2
No. of above for which Grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, £.47	—	—	—
Sanitary Bins provided	7	—	7
Sanitary Bins renewed	20	—	20
DRAINAGE			
New Drains constructed	31	—	31
Drains repaired or reconstructed	10	—	10
Additional Gullies provided	4	—	4
Old Gullies replaced	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided	3	—	3
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired	—	—	—
" " " " trapped	3	—	3
Yards repaired or reconstructed	4	—	4
WATER SUPPLY			
Sources closed or discontinued	—	Number of Houses	—
NEW SERVICE PROVIDED			
(a) By Local Authority	—	Number of Houses	—
(b) By Private Owner	14	Number of Houses	14
No. of Dwelling Houses supplied by	(a) Internal Tap	2,585	
	(b) Standpipe	69	

The number of complaints received during the year was 172. All of these were dealt with. The method adopted for the remedy of defects is by service of informal notices, verbal intimations and interviews. No cases arose during the year, where Statutory Action was resorted to. As a result of the action referred to, the following works were effected either under the Public Health Act, 1936, or the Housing Act, 1936.

Ceilings repaired and renewed	...	3	Roofs repaired	...	...	...	8
Drains cleared	...	1	Rain water pipes repaired	...	...	...	4
Drains repaired	...	4	Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	1
Damp walls remedied	...	19	Smoky chimneys remedied	...	...	...	1
Damp floors remedied	...	3	Staircases repaired	...	...	...	1
Doors repaired	...	4	Water pipes repaired	...	...	...	2
External walls repointed	...	4	Waste pipes renewed	...	...	...	1
Food Stores repaired	...	2	Walls (plaster renewed)	...	...	...	4
Guily drains repaired	...	1	Wooden floors repaired	...	...	...	3
Hot water systems provided	...	1	Water closets repaired	...	...	...	5
Houses cleansed	...	3	Water closets pedestals renewed	...	...	...	1
Kitchen ranges repaired	...	6	Windows repaired	...	...	...	9
Mantels refixed	...	1	Wash-houses repaired	...	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations removed	...	4	Water supply reinstated	...	...	...	1
Public Conveniences repaired	...	1					

Other visits and inspections of the District under the Public Health Act, 1936, were as follows:—

Refuse Disposal Grounds	...	...	84	Places for Public Entertainment	...	...	10
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	14	Licensed Premises	...	...	15
Public Conveniences	...	...	35	Markets	...	...	20
Yards, Courts and Passages	...	...	20	Temporary Housing Sites	...	...	14
Fairgrounds	...	...	2	Infectious Diseases	...	...	12

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Observations of smoke emitted from factory chimneys were made periodically and no case arose which offended against the Act.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS

Number of Council-owned houses where Bed-Bugs were found	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of privately-owned houses where Bed-Bugs were found	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

MISCELLANEOUS INSECT PESTS

Number of Council-owned houses where insects were found	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of privately-owned houses where insects were found	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

The method employed for eradication of insect pests is by the application of an approved insecticide noted for its rapid knockdown properties and long residual action. In the more severe cases of Bed-Bug and Cockroach infestations it is necessary to remove wooden mouldings, etcetera, and submit them to the direct heat of a blow-lamp flame. Subsequently, spray with insecticide and replace.

Several cases of infestation of Wood Bettle have recently been reported to the department. These present a special problem requiring a great deal of time and very great care in treatment on the part of the disinfector, for it is often found that this insect has a preference for certain timbers which polish well. Consequently, highly-polished furniture and domestic woodwork could suffer both from the effects of the insect and from the application of certain insecticides. So far, no complaints have been made of any damage to furnishings through action undertaken by the department.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year under review the work of the department under this heading has proceeded in a satisfactory manner.

There must be no relaxation of our efforts to suppress and, where possible, completely eradicate these pests, remembering that they are known carriers of disease, destroyers of property and a menace to the nation's food supplies.

The department has not spared itself in tracking down the infestations, and, by correct approach, has largely secured the co-operation and goodwill of those affected. The practical work of Rodent Destruction is carried out by an officially-trained Council employee, who has received instruction in modern methods devised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The work is under the general supervision of the Additional Sanitary Inspector.

The sewerage system was submitted to bi-annual treatments of baiting in accordance with the Ministry requirements. Refuse disposal grounds, sewage works, business premises, residential properties, schools, hospitals, market gardens, allotment gardens and Council-owned properties all came within the preview of the department during the year. Particular attention was given to Duchar Park, where the town refuse is at present being deposited as the first stage towards future development.

This site presents another special problem insofar as vermin are concerned, because of its geographical situation and natural formations, offering as it does all the conditions of abundant food, water and cover welcomed by rodentia.

Despite this, the vigilance observed by the department has not allowed the situation to get out of control, and each successive treatment shows good results. As the tip face progresses and narrows, the incidence of rats here should diminish.

DESTRUCTION OF MOLES

This work is of a specialist character, and is not normally undertaken by the Council's rat-catcher, and no instruction on their eradication is, as yet, forthcoming from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Therefore this work has been, by resolution of the Council, contracted out to a specialist mole-catcher. He has operated at Carlisle Park, Castle Woods, Tranwell Reservoir and the Olympic Games field, and by the terms of his contract is on call when necessary.

DESPATCH OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

This service to pet-owners in the Borough is carried out by the rat-catcher, under the supervision of the Additional Sanitary Inspector. The method employed in putting small domestic animals to sleep at the request of the owner of the animal, is by asphyxiation with Chloroform gas, in an approved R.S.P.C.A. chamber.

Other animals are also disposed of from time to time by the department at the request of the Police authorities.

The number of animals so dealt with during the year was fourteen.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Frequent inspections were carried out at the sewage pumping station and the sewage works, which were found generally to be working satisfactorily, although continually operating to full capacity.

Sewers and syphons were examined regularly and cleansed and flushed when necessary.

There was no flooding.

Messrs D. Balfour and Son, consulting engineer, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in accordance with the Council's instructions, commenced their investigations as to the provision of improvements and additions to the sewage works, pumping station and main sewers in order to relieve the overloading of the disposal works and to provide for the future requirements of the town.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Public cleansing is done by direct labour. Refuse is collected daily and is deposited at Deuchar Park, situated within the Borough.

The vehicles used for collection are :—

- (1) Bantam Karrier (capacity 7 c. yards).
- (2) Karrier C.K.3 (capacity 9/10 c. yards).
- (3) 1 horse and cart.

Fifty-seven new bins were added to the collection system during the year.

Close watch was kept in connection with rat infestation of the tip and, whenever possible, surfaces were kept covered by rubble and soil to discourage infestation. Poisoning and fumigating campaigns were frequently carried out as a deterrent against rats and insect pests.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Wansbeck, flowing through the heart of the town, forms one of the principal beauty spots and centres of attraction in the Borough, and as such ought to receive the treatment from the populace in keeping with its charm and pleasure-giving properties. It is regrettable to report, however, that the river and embankments between Lady's Walk and Tommy's Field is at certain points persistently and surreptitiously used as a depositing-ground for garden refuse and discarded household articles. Besides creating a harbourage for vermin, such deposits are unsightly and eventually give rise to nuisance from smells from decaying vegetation and obstruct the free flow of the water.

The periodical scavenging of the river in an effort to maintain its tourist-attracting qualities has been carried out during the year, but it is disheartening to find that the nuisance is persistent. An appeal is made, therefore, to the citizens of Morpeth and all others who visit this lovely town, to refrain from fouling the river and its banks.

RIVER POLLUTION

No action was found necessary.

CAMPING SITES

There are no Camping Sites within the Borough.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools within the Borough.

SCHOOLS

Within the Borough there are five schools for elementary education of children, two for secondary education, and one Commercial College. All of the schools are supplied with drinking water from the Corporation water mains, piped either to draw off taps or drinking fountains. They are also provided with modern sanitary conveniences, and one elementary school has hot and cold shower baths.

Inspections revealed that one elementary school had inadequate provision for food storage in connection with school meals. This was promptly dealt with by the School Authorities on its being brought to their notice.

FACTORIES ACT

There are in the Borough 15 factories without mechanical power and 43 with mechanical power. The following table gives details of the inspections made and results thereof during 1951.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including

INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Premises (1)	M/e line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspections (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/e line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	15	14	3	Nil	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	2	43	35	3	Nil	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
Total ...		58	49	6	Nil	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/e line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found					Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/e line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)			
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	6	6	—	3		Nil	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	1	1	—	1		Nil	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—		Nil	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	1	1	—	—		Nil	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—		Nil	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)								
(a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—		Nil	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	2	2	—	—		Nil	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	—	—	—	—		Nil	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	—	—	1	—		Nil	12
Total	60	10	10	1	4		Nil	60

SECTION D

HOUSING

The following is a tabular statement for the year 1951:—

Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority — Permanent ... Temporary ...	45	Nil	45
(b) By other Bodies or Persons Permanent ... Temporary ...	Nil	12	12

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR	
(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	321
(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(3) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	34
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers	33
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS	
<i>(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
<i>(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	30
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
<i>(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 12 of Housing Act, 1936</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses closed but not demolished (Housing Act, 1949, Sec. 3)	Nil
<i>(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936</i>	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
<i>(4) NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE</i>	
	2

HOUSING ACT, 1949 (SEC. 20)

(a) Number of separate dwelling-houses in respect of which applications for grant have been received Nil

(b) Number of separate dwelling-houses in respect of which applications for grant have been approved Nil

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are 5 dairy premises and 7 distributors of milk on the Borough Register. Four distributors were licensed to retail Tuberculin Tested milk and two licensed to retail Pasteurised milk. One of the latter is a distributor whose premises are outside the Borough and who was therefore granted a "supplementary" licence. One of the distributors of Tuberculin Tested milk relinquished his business during the year; consequently, a new licence was granted to his successor.

It is pleasing to report that, despite labour and economic difficulties, a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained in the dairy premises of Morpeth. They were regularly visited and advised on the best methods of handling milk, and cleansing equipment.

One of the distributors, whose premises would not permit of the installation of sterilising equipment, decided to cease retailing loose milk, and now deals only in milk bottled on premises outside the Borough.

Routine samples were obtained and taken to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, with results set out in the following table:—

SAMPLES

Class of Milk	No. Samples Taken	Appropriate Tests	Passed	Failed	No Result
Pasteurised	7	Meth. Blue ... Phosphatase ...	6 4	1	
Ungraded	5	Meth. Blue Exam. for B. Tuberculosis	4 3	1	1 Animal Died
Tuberculin Tested	8	Meth. Blue ... Exam. for B. Tuberculosis	6 3	2	1 Animal Died

Of the 4 samples which failed to pass the Methylene Blue Reductase Test, which is a test for ascertaining the keeping qualities of milk, 3 failed only by a narrow margin. It can, therefore, be confidently stated that from the results of the tests and the entire absence of complaints regarding the keeping quality of the milk, the supply to the Borough is generally satisfactory. Negotiations between the Health Department and the dairymen in the Borough are in progress for a still greater effort in the field of hygiene, and it is hoped that the Report for 1952 will show even more satisfactory results.

MEAT INSPECTION

The inspection of meat at the Government-controlled abattoir, Staithes Lane, again made great demands upon the Additional Sanitary Inspector's time, though some relief has been afforded by the assistance of an officer of Morpeth Rural District Council.

The frequent arrival, at all hours of the day, of Casualty and Emergency slaughter cases presents a very special problem not experienced in other districts comparatively or entirely free from such cases. All animals arriving dead or alive at the abattoir are carefully examined and no carcasses or organs are allowed to leave the premises without inspection in accordance with Memorandum 62 Foods, issued by the Ministry of Health. Although some degree of improvement in the amenities provided at the abattoir was achieved during the year 1950 it must be reiterated that there is yet room for improvement.

It is greatly to be hoped that the Ministry of Food will soon inform Local Authorities of its future policy regarding the slaughtering of animals for human food, in order that Authorities who own slaughtering premises may decide on what lines they will act as regards (a) modernising existing premises or (b) building new premises. Obsolete methods of slaughtering and of handling meat should no longer be tolerated, and anything that falls short of modern concepts of hygiene and public health should cease. The desire and aim should be to have premises that are easily cleaned, well lighted, adequately ventilated, both naturally and artificially, provided with cooling rooms and cold stores, and supplied with abundant hot and

cold water on tap throughout, and have mechanical hoisting and inter-communicating rail appliances. Mess room accommodation should be provided for slaughtermen, where they may take a meal in clean and pleasant surroundings, and change their clothes when necessary. Many other improvements, too numerous to mention, could be made, which would raise this branch of Public Health to the high standard of hygiene which its importance to the community merits.

The abattoir in Morpeth is a Ministry of Food Slaughtering Centre and distributing depot for an area which includes the Borough, Morpeth Rural District and part of Castle Ward Rural District. The population served from this abattoir is approximately 28,000.

The number of animals dealt with during the year under review was as follows:—

Month		Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Monthly Totals
January	...	68	301	6	27	402
February	...	43	187	16	21	267
March	...	81	442	68	49	640
April	...	90	197	75	22	384
May	...	124	276	69	16	485
June	...	28	125	30	6	189
July	...	92	245	16	13	366
August	...	205	396	6	13	620
September	...	219	463	3	21	706
October	...	282	595	20	16	913
November	...	201	447	10	18	676
December	...	141	266	18	13	438
Yearly Totals	...	1,574	3,940	337	235	6,086

Animals dealt with during the year, therefore, numbered 6,086, as against 5,296 last year. The increase is 790.

The following table gives the variations among the various animals dealt with:—

		Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total
1951	...	1,574	3,940	337	235	6,086
1950	...	1,316	3,805	56	119	5,296
Increase	...	258	135	281	116	790

The weight of meat and offals condemned during the year amounted to:—

21 tons, 17 cwts., 2 qrs., 0 st., 1 lb., 0 ozs.

This was retained by the Ministry of Food for appropriate disposal and manufacture into by-products.

CONDEMNATIONS

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number slaughtered	1,256	317	235	3,940	337
Number inspected	1,256	317	235	3,940	337
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcases	23	26	15	100	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	752	66	16	508	45
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	61.7%	29.02%	13.19%	15.43%	15.73%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned	3	14	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	32	—	—	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.74%	14.51%	—	—	0.89%

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Other sundry foodstuffs inspected and condemned as unfit for human food were as follows:—

Varicus canned goods	...	...	...	431	tins
Bacon	...	...	...	17	lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	27½	lbs.
Sugar	...	...	...	105	lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	126	lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	52½	lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	70	lbs.

In no case was it necessary to seize formally any of the above-mentioned articles, as they were voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The following list shows the numbers of visits of inspection paid to various premises which come within the scope of the above-mentioned Act:—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	10
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	20
Cafes, Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cocked Meats	...	...	...	...	...	27
Confectioners, Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fish (cooked)	...	...	...	...	...	12
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	26
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	18
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	20
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	15

ICE CREAM

Four samples of Ice Cream were procured for Bacteriological Examination and all proved highly satisfactory and were placed in *Provisional Grade 1*.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease was provided at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

	Age unknown	Under 1 year	Age groups												Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
			1	2	3	4	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65				
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	3	4	12	—	1	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	2	9	—	—	
Measles ...	1	2	4	10	6	11	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	62	—	—	
Whoop'g Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	
Meningococcal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE — NIL

This term includes death from the following seven diseases only: Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Measles, Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.

DIPHTHERIA

Only one case of this disease was notified during the year, and this occurred in an inmate of an institution in the Borough. Thus, for the third successive year, not a single case occurred among the general population.

PNEUMONIA

Of the 12 cases of Pneumonia notified, 7 occurred in January, and of these 4 suffered from Influenza Pneumonia. It will be remembered that in January, 1951, there was a country-wide epidemic of Influenza and Morpeth did not escape it. There is little doubt that the actual incidence of Pneumonia and Influenza was greater than the number of notifications indicates.

Only one death was attributed to Pneumonia, but six deaths occurred as a result of Pneumonia due to Influenza, and one death from Acute Bronchitis due to Influenza. Only two of these cases had been notified.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Visits were paid to most of the schools in the Borough, but in some cases treatment was not completed until early in 1952. Altogether, the primary course of treatment was given, at the schools, the Child Welfare Centre and by private doctors, to 130 pre-school children and 29 school children. In addition, 229 children received a secondary or re-inforcing injection.

It is estimated that at 31:12:51 the immunisation state of the child population was as follows:—

Pre-school children immunised ...	...	...	...	445	...	51.33%
School children immunised ...	...	...	...	1244	...	88.90%
Total children under 15 years immunised ...	...	...	...	1689	...	74.5 %

The figures are satisfactory as far as the school children are concerned, but it is disappointing that the percentage for pre-school children has declined instead of showing the increase which was desired.

The following table, which contains figures supplied by the Ministry of Health and the Registrar-General, shows the continuing decline of Diphtheria in England and Wales:—

Year	Deaths	Notifications (corrected)
1944	934	23,199
1945	722	18,596
1946	472	11,986
1947	244	5,609
1948	156	3,575
1949	84	1,890
1950	49	962
1951	34	699

CANCER MORTALITY

	MALES						FEMALES					
	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total	25-	35-	45-	55-	65	Total	
Colon	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Brain	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	
Stomach	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Lungs	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	4	
Tongue	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Kidney	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Lip	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Rectum	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
	1	1	3	4	9	1	1	3	3	7	15	

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population — 2.23.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1951

	NEW CASES						DEATHS					
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 15 years	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 35 years	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 45 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 - 55 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 65 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	9	2	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—

Case Rate per 1,000 of the population — 1.11.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population — 0.37.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population in England and Wales — 0.31.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH — 1951
VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population (including London) 25,000-50,000 London) at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
Rates per 1,000 Home Population				
<i>Births</i>				
Live births	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
Still births	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
<i>Deaths</i>				
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Acute poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>				
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
Whooping Cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)				
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Non-Paralytic	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
<i>Deaths</i>				
Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
All causes under 1 year of age	29.6 (a)	33.9	27.6	26.4
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>				
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

	Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115 Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium | Abortion with toxæmia	70 3	0.10 0.00	— 0
A116 | Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	167	0.24	
A117 Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	91	0.13	
A118 Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	37	0.05	4
A119 Abortion with sepsis	66	0.09	7
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

(a) per 1,000 related live births.

